

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

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| IN RE:<br><br>PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY,<br>DIVISION OF UTILICORP UNITED INC. | DOCKET NO. SPU-99-23 |
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**ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION TO ABANDON SERVICE**

(Issued October 7, 1999)

On July 26, 1999, Peoples Natural Gas Company (Peoples), Division of UtiliCorp United Inc., filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an application to abandon service, pursuant to IOWA CODE § 476.20(1) (1999). Peoples specifically requests authority to abandon natural gas service at five small volume farm taps located in Pottawattamie and Shelby counties, Iowa. IOWA CODE § 476.20(1) (1999) provides in pertinent part:

A utility shall not, except in cases of emergency, discontinue, reduce, or impair service to a community, or a part of a community, except for nonpayment or account or violation of rules and regulations, unless and until permission to do so is obtained from the board.

In support of its application, Peoples states the branchline on which the farm taps reside is owned by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern). Peoples, as a division of Northern in the 1980's, provided the metering and billing for natural gas for the farm taps. Peoples was subsequently acquired by Utilicorp United Inc., but retained ownership of the meters on the branchline. On June 16, 1999, in Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Docket No. CP99-561-000, Northern filed its application to abandon service to Peoples and remove the facilities servicing those customers, thereby requiring the removal of the farm taps.

The Board has reviewed the application and finds it reasonable. All five customers served by the facilities have consented to the abandonment. Therefore, Peoples' application to abandon service and remove five small volume meter stations will be granted.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

The application to abandon service filed by Peoples Natural Gas Company, Division of UtiliCorp United Inc., on July 26, 1999, is granted.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary, Deputy

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1999.